

Message Text

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12
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 AF-08 ARA-06 CIAE-00

DODE-00 EA-07 EUR-12 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NASA-01

NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01

OES-06 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /125 W
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R 102235Z SEP 76
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9099
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, UN
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE ON UN ROLE IN DISARMAMENT: FINAL REPORT

REF: USUN 3627 (NOTAL)

1. AD HOC COMMITTEE ON UN ROLE IN DISARMAMENT CONCLUDED
FOUR-DAY FINAL SESSION SEPT 10 WITH ADOPTION OF REPORT
(POUCHED IO AND ACDA) CONTAINING CONSENSUS RECOMMENDATIONS
TO UNGA ON IMPROVING UN EFFECTIVENESS IN DISARMAMENT.
MOST NOTABLE RECOMMENDATIONS CALL FOR:

-- PUBLICATION OF UN DISARMAMENT YEARBOOK REVIEWING ANNUAL
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DEVELOPMENTS IN UN, CCD, AND OTHER FORUMS AND, WHEN STANDARD-

IZED FORMAT AND CRITERIA FOR MEASUREMENT ARE DEVELOPED, INFORMATION ON SUCH TOPICS AS MILITARY EXPENDITURES, ARMED FORCES, ARMS TRADE, AND FOREIGN MILITARY AID;

--CONSIDERATION AT A LATER STAGE, PROBABLY 1978, OF PUBLICATION OF A DISARMAMENT PERIODICAL AIMED AT THE GENERAL PUBLIC (THE YEARBOOK BEING REGARDED AS A REFERENCE SOURCE FOR GOVERNMENTS AND SPECIALISTS);

--TRANSFORMATION OF THE DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS DIVISION OF THE UN SECRETARIAT INTO A "UN CENTER FOR DISARMAMENT" HEADED BY AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL (THE CENTER'S ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS WOULD REMAIN ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS THOSE OF THE DAD).

2. AS AT PREVIOUS SESSIONS, AD HOC COMMITTEE CONTINUED TO GENERATE RELATIVELY LITTLE INTEREST, IN PART REFLECTING COMPETITIVE DEMANDS ON DELS BY LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. ALTHOUGH COMMITTEE WAS OPEN TO ALL UN MEMBERS, FEWER THAN 50 DELS ATTENDED PLENARY MEETINGS AND ONLY ABOUT 20 DELS, INCLUDING 8-10 WESTERN DELS, PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE. EVIDENT LACK OF INTEREST AND MODESTY OF RECOMMENDATIONS WERE CLEARLY DISAPPOINTMENT TO SWEDES, WHO HAD LAUNCHED EXERCISE WITH GREAT EXPECTATIONS, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO EXPANSION OF SECRETARIAT STAFF AND RESPONSIBILITY IN DISARMAMENT MATTER.

3. SOVIET PARTICIPATION WAS NOTABLE. OVERALL, THEY TOOK RELAXED ATTITUDE TOWARD COMMITTEE'S WORK ONCE IT BECAME CLEAR THAT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD NOT THREATEN THE CCD OR SOVIET POSITION IN THE UN SECRETARIAT (I.E., CONTROL BY SOVIET UNDER SYG FOR POLITICAL AND SECURITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS OF SECRETARIAT'S DISARMAMENT DIVISION). ONLY MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE DIFFICULTY FOR SOVIETS WAS IN CONNECTION WITH US-INITIATED LANGUAGE CALLING FOR STANDARDIZED FORMAT AND GENERALLY APPLICABLE MEASUREMENT CRITERIA FOR PUBLICATION OF MILITARY EXPENDITURE AND OTHER STATISTICAL DATA IN YEARBOOK. WHILE NOT BLOCKING THIS LANGUAGE IN THE CONSENSUS RECOMMENDATION, SOVIET REP TULINOV PLACED ON RECORD ANNEXED TO REPORT VIEW THAT "CONCENTRATION ON TECHNICAL QUESTIONS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MINOR IMPORTANCE, INCLUDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF CRITERIA (FOR MEASUREMENT, REPORTING, AND EVALUATION OF MILITARY DATA) DIVERTED ATTENTION FROM THE URGENT NEED TO TAKE EFFECTIVE PRACTICAL MEASURES AIMED AT ENDING THE ARMS RACE AND BRINGING ABOUT DISARMAMENT." GDR, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HUNGARY, AND BULGARIA DULY ENDORSED THIS POSITION.

4. SWEDEN, WHICH CHAIRED COMMITTEE AND FLOOR-MANAGED

DEVELOPMENT OF ITS REPORT, PLANS TO INTRODUCE RESOLUTION DURING UNGA DISARMAMENT DEBATE ENDORSING COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS. (IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOME NON-ALIGNED WILL SEEK SPECIAL MENTION OF PERIODICAL IN RESOLUTION WITH AIM OF SPEEDING UP ITS INSTITUTION. MEXICO MAY ALSO SEEK ENDORSEMENT OF IDEA THAT PROPOSED NEW ASST. SYG FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS SHOULD BE A THIRD WORLD NATIONAL, ALTHOUGH MANY SHARE US VIEW THAT THIS WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE STIPULATION.) ASIDE FROM FIRST COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS, FIFTH COMMITTEE AND ACABQ WILL HAVE TO TAKE UP FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS. SEVERAL WESTERN DELS, INCLUDING US, UK, ITALY, JAPAN, FRG, NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, AND NEW ZEALAND, SPECIFICALLY RESERVED THEIR POSITION ON THESE IMPLICATIONS. PRIVATELY, SOVIETS ALSO EXPRESSED VIEW THAT FIFTH COMMITTEE ACTION WAS ENTIRELY SEPARATE MATTER FROM "POLITICAL" ENDORSEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS.
BENNETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISARMAMENT, MEETING REPORTS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN03669
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760343-0794
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760971/aaaacimn.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 USUN NEW YORK 3627
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMITTEE ON UN ROLE IN DISARMAMENT: FINAL REPORT
TAGS: PARM, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006